

VIEW FROM THE HEIGHTS

November 2020

Greetings,

Holy Days and Holidays are upon us. (One & the same in past times.) This year, both church and family celebrations will be different. Smaller gatherings at home. Simple services and safe snacks replacing traditional church events. Hot chocolate by a blazing fire relinquished in favour of brisk walks in the fresh air. (A healthier pursuit in or out of a pandemic!)

The Holydays will definitely not be the same this year. Thankfully, technology will help many of us connect with those who cannot join us at the Thanksgiving table or round the Christmas tree. A past Thanksgiving at a friend's house featured guests from around the world & my friend's daughter "present" for the festivities via Skype and an i-pad. A welcoming and inclusive day for us all.

When technology isn't available, there are other ways to feel close. Enjoying the same recipe or observing the same tradition, for example. My mum and I have always listened to the Queen's Christmas Message together. She, in England, relaxing after her Christmas dinner; me, over here, preparing the sprouts & the spuds! (Sorry, Your Maj.!) Such shared moments help lessen the distance.

Technology and physically distant ways of sharing help bring us together. But, above all else, we have love. Speaking recently, Justin Welby (Archbishop of Canterbury) and Stephen Cottrell (Archbishop of York) said that Covid-19 has shown that *"love transcends boundaries and can easily jump two metres."*ⁱ

In US measurements, *"love can easily jump six feet"*. It can and it does! And many feet – and miles – more!

*"Love knows no limit to its endurance, no end to its trust, no fading of its hope; it can outlast anything. It is, in fact, the one thing that still stands when all else has fallen."*ⁱⁱ

Wishing you a Thanksgiving and Christmas Season filled with hope and love and God's richest blessings.

Brenda

ⁱ Tim Wyatt, 'Love can jump two metres': Archbishops upbeat despite pandemic trials. Church Times, 9/25/20

ⁱⁱ 1 Corinthians 13: 7-8a, J.B. Phillips Translation